

POST QUARTERMASTER-SERGEANTS.

MAY 19, 1898.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. HULL, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 10051.]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 10051) entitled "A bill to increase the number of post quartermaster-sergeants in the United States Army," report the same back to the House with the recommendation that it do pass.

The increase in the number of post quartermaster-sergeants in the United States Army seems to be necessary for the efficiency of the service. The Quartermaster-General, in a letter to the chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs dated May 17, 1898, sets forth the cost of twenty-five additional post quartermaster-sergeants; also the cost of twenty-five clerks that would be necessary in case this bill should not become a law.

This letter, which is hereto attached and made a part of this report, shows that it will be a saving of over \$9,000 per annum to have this work done by post quartermaster-sergeants.

WAR DEPARTMENT, QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, May 17, 1898.

SIR: Replying to your telegram of to-day, in reference to difference in pay or cost of 25 additional post quartermaster-sergeants requested by this Department, I have the honor to invite your attention to the following:

Pay and allowance of a post quartermaster-sergeant for first five years of enlistment.

	First year.	Second year.	Third year.	Fourth year.	Fifth year.	Total.
Pay.....	\$408.00	\$408.00	\$420.00	\$432.00	\$444.00	\$2,112.00
Clothing.....	63.14	26.28	36.96	26.28	23.72	176.38
Rations.....	65.70	65.70	65.70	65.70	65.70	328.50
Fuel, estimated value for one year.....	32.00	32.00	32.00	32.00	32.00	160.00
Total for five years.....						2,776.88
Average cost, 1 sergeant, one year.....						555.37
Cost, 25 sergeants, one year.....						13,884.25
Add 20 per cent increase in time of war on pay proper, act approved April 26, 1898.....						2,112.00
Total cost, 25 sergeants, one year, war basis.....						15,996.25

The sergeants are also furnished with quarters, medical attendance, etc., which can not well be reduced to a money value.

In answer to your second telegram as to difference in expense in case civilian clerks are provided in lieu of post quartermaster-sergeants, I would say that the 25 clerks could not be secured for a less sum than \$1,000 per annum each, making a total of \$25,000 per annum for the 25 men, which is considerable more than the cost of 25 post quartermaster-sergeants.

Post quartermaster-sergeants are selected from sergeants of the line who are familiar with quartermasters' duties, and who are required to pass a special examination before appointment. We already have a large number of examined candidates ready for appointment. Civilian clerks would not only be more expensive to the Government but would not meet so well the requirements of the military service, nor would civilian clerks answer in the present emergency, which calls for men expert in quartermasters' duties.

Post quartermaster-sergeants are what the service actually requires, and I hope and earnestly recommend that they be provided.

Very respectfully,

M. I. LUDINGTON,
Quartermaster-General U. S. A.

Hon. J. A. T. HULL,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

[House Document No. 384, Fifty-fifth Congress, second session.]

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, D. C., March 28, 1898.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith copy of a letter of the Quartermaster-General of the Army, dated March 26, 1898, in which he represents that, in view of the recent establishment of new artillery posts on the seacoast, it is impracticable, with the present authorized number of post quartermaster-sergeants (80) to fill requisitions for the services of such sergeants without withdrawing sergeants from other stations where they are needed, and recommends that the number be increased not less than 25.

The recommendation is concurred in by the Adjutant-General of the Army.

Very respectfully,

R. A. ALGER, *Secretary of War.*

The SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WAR DEPARTMENT, QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, March 26, 1898.

SIR: I have the honor to invite your attention to the act of Congress approved July 5, 1884, relating to post quartermaster-sergeants, which reads as follows:

"That the Secretary of War is authorized to appoint, on the recommendation of the Quartermaster-General, as many post quartermaster-sergeants, not to exceed eighty, as he may deem necessary for the interests of the service, said sergeants to be selected by examination from the most competent enlisted men of the Army who have served at least four years, and whose character and education shall fit them to take charge of public property and to act as clerks and assistants to post and other quartermasters; said post quartermaster-sergeants shall, so far as practicable, perform the duties of storekeepers and clerks in lieu of citizen employees. The post quartermaster-sergeants shall be subject to the Rules and Articles of War, and shall receive for their services the same pay and allowances as ordnance sergeants."

Since the enactment of the above law and the appointment of the post quartermaster-sergeants thereunder, the services of these sergeants have proven highly satisfactory and valuable to the quartermaster's department at military posts, where they assist the quartermaster in the performance of duties of storekeepers and clerks in lieu of citizen employees.

The full complement of these sergeants (80), as now provided by law, are in the service, and, with only two exceptions, are now on duty at military posts.

In view of the recent establishment of new artillery posts on the seacoast, applications are now coming in from these posts for the services of a post quartermaster-sergeant, and this office finds that, with the present authorized number of sergeants, these requisitions can not be filled without withdrawing sergeants from other stations where they are needed, which would be detrimental to the public interest.

To meet the new conditions created by the establishment of so many new posts, an increase of not less than 25 post quartermaster-sergeants in the number now allowed by law is actually required. I therefore recommend that the necessary steps be taken with a view to securing immediate legislation from Congress increasing the number of post quartermaster-sergeants from 80 to 105. The method of appointment, examination, and other requirements, duties, pay, and allowances of the additional number should be governed by the present law relating to these sergeants.

Very respectfully,

M. I. LUDINGTON,

Quartermaster-General United States Army.

The SECRETARY OF WAR.

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